

Joy of ST. JOHN'S UCC



Citizens' Climate Lobby

CCL Speaker at SJUCC Oct. 22

GUEST SPEAKER MARY GARTON

Mary Garton will be our morning speaker on Sunday, October 22. Mary is a Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer. She will speak to us about climate change and how we can take steps to care for our beautiful planet.

Mary's message is two-fold. She will tell us what will happen if we ignore climate change. Then she will give us hope-filled actions that will lead to a better future. Mary will speak during our worship service and will answer questions during our coffee hour.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address the global climate crisis. Let's welcome Mary on October 22!



Myrrh Project Begins

COMBINED MISSION PROJECT

St. John's UCC and Westminster Presbyterian Church are working together on a joint mission project this fall to provide Thanksgiving dinners to less fortunate families in Jackson. Each family is asked to purchase one specific food item each week for 8 weeks.

Please bring your food item to church each Sunday:

OCT 1 - BOX OF INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

OCT 8 - CAN OF GREEN BEANS

OCT 15 - BOX OF STUFFING MIX

OCT 22 - JAR OF TURKEY GRAVY

OCT 29 - CAN OF CRANBERRY SAUCE

This project began on Sunday, Oct. 1, and will end on Sunday, Nov. 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The following Monday we will pack the dinner boxes, and on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we will distribute the dinners. See page 5 for a list of items needed in November. Thank you for helping our community families enjoy the holiday!



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From the Pastor's Screen

HOPE CABIN

Following an especially stressful week, my husband Keith and I decided to rent a cabin in Hocking Hills, Ohio, in the foothills of the Appalachians. We usually spend some time online researching the area and the rental homes before we travel. This time, we didn't. Keith found a cabin and I booked it. We threw our overnight bags in the truck and took off.

We arrived at Hope Cabin with high hopes – which quickly evaporated.

The first issue was the bedding. I couldn't find any. No sheets, no towels. The rental details (which we had not read) stated: "Please bring your own bedding and towels." We didn't.

The second problem was our neighbors living in the wall: mice. They had a wonderful time scratching every night.

Then we met "wood roaches" (not to be confused with their cousins, the cockroaches). These big bugs love wood, not food or clothing or people ... or so they say.

Finally, after driving a long distance to the nearest town so we could buy the cheapest bedding we could find, we settled in for the night – on the worst mattress we've ever slept on. We nearly sank to the floor. By sunrise Keith and I were sore and cranky, and we decided to pack up and leave.

Then I made some coffee, and we carried our mugs outside to the porch. The trees rose gracefully, a gentle breeze blew, and it was quiet. Still.

Peaceful. We held our warm mugs and welcomed the morning. I imagined waking up in a hotel with the noise of traffic and people, surrounded by concrete and bright lights – and we decided to stay. We stayed with the mice and the bugs and the terrible mattresses and the cheap sheets. We stayed with the trees and the silence and the calm.

Someone once said, "Where your attention goes, your energy flows." When our attention was focused on all the problems at Hope Cabin, we were unable to see the beauty. We missed the peace we craved. We lost hope.

We all know that cabin life comes with all sorts of neighbors, and most of them are unwelcome. I'm not fond of big bugs, and I certainly don't like sharing my house with mice. When all our attention was on those small problems, we couldn't see the big picture. We almost missed the beauty right in front of us.

Isn't that what church is like? Small problems clamor for our attention. Someone sat in "my" pew. So-and-so said such-and-such. The pastor walked by and didn't even say hello ... Where's the live music? Where's the choir?

Let's pause for a moment and consider what's good. Church is our safe space. It grounds us. It welcomes us, and it challenges us. Church invites us to reorient our souls in the way of Jesus so that when we go back to the "real" world, we are refreshed.

We don't need mice, wood roaches, or lumpy mattresses -- we have enough distractions of our own. Let's create opportunities to feel peaceful and calm. Let's focus on the good.

Ever hopeful,

Pastor Judy



Hope deferred
makes the heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled
is a tree of life..

Proverbs 13:12 NRSV



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October Birthdays

TIME TO CELEBRATE

- 3. Janeen Bush
- 5. John Letson
- 10. Elaine Kalbarczyk
- 10. Eileen Bolenbaugh
- 10. Barry Kimble
- 16. Norma Smith
- 17. Dawn Thomas
- 21. Kristi Shannon
- 23. Eric Canter
- 29. Janine Osborne



Givelify

DONOR INFORMATION

The Givelify app charges a small service fee with each donation. This fee is used to cover the Givelify costs of processing the donation while providing safe and secure on-line giving. For those using Visa, Mastercard and Discover, the service fee is 2.9% + \$0.30 per donation. This means that for a \$10 donation, \$0.33 will be deducted and the remaining \$9.67 will be deposited into SJUCC bank account. The giver pays the fee to Givelify. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Albert N. (Bert) Steck
Financial Secretary

Neighbors in Need

UCC SPECIAL OFFERING

On Sunday, October 8, we will collect our Neighbors in Need offering. Our own Baby Shower was once a NIN grant recipient! Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile UCC program. Donations can be made on Givelify, or use the envelopes provided in the bulletin.



"God saw everything God made and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

CROP Walk

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

A team of volunteers from SJUCC and WPC will walk to raise funds for Church World Service on October 8. When we walk, donate, and raise funds, we provide life-saving support such as: Emergency food, seeds, tools, and programs that will help families feed themselves.

The CROP Walk will begin at 1 PM at First Congregational UCC.



October Calendar

OCT 1 - WORSHIP 10 AM
AT WPC

OCT 3 - CENTERING PRAYER
5 PM

OCT 8 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM;
CROP WALK 1 PM

OCT 10 - COMBINED
PARTNERSHIP MEETING
5:30 PM

OCT 11- VISION MEETING
1PM; COUNCIL MEETING 3 PM

OCT 15 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM;
OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CONVERSATION 11:45 AM

OCT 20 - FOOD PANTRY AND
BABY SPRINKLES
10 AM-NOON

OCT 22 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM
WITH MARY GARTON CCL

OCT 24- COMMUNITY DINNER
6 PM - DESSERTS NEEDED!

OCT 28 - UCC MICHIGAN
CONFERENCE MEETING IN
GRAND RAPIDS; SPECIAL
NEEDS DANCE AT SJUCC
7 PM TO 9 PM

OCT 29 - WORSHIP 10:30 AM

OCT 31 - CENTERING PRAYER
5 PM



Samaritan Fund

BEING GOOD SAMARITANS

In September our Samaritan Fund received 37 requests for assistance. We had 15 requests for help with rent; seven payments were issued. We had 17 requests for help with Consumers bills; nine payments were issued. We had 5 requests for water bill assistance; four payments were issued. Requests for help with motel stays and gas money were referred to other agencies. Thirteen people received emergency food. Showers were used 36 times last month. Donations to the Samaritan Fund are always welcome -- and needed!

Food Pantry & Baby Sprinkle

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Food Pantry & Baby Sprinkle was held on September 15. We provided 1800 pounds of food and served 148 individuals, representing 371 family members. Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet provide clothing for infants and children up to size 8, baby items, and diapers. Last month 31 families received items; 52 children were served. The next Food Pantry and Baby Sprinkle will be October 20 from 10 AM to 12 noon.



Donna Benedict and KayKay at the Baby Shower

ONA Q&A

OPEN & AFFIRMING CONVERSATION

What does the New Testament say about sexuality? On Sunday, October 15, Pastor Judy will continue our conversation about the so-called "clobber passages" in the New Testament. Let's talk following our worship service on October 15.

Community Dinner

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 at 6 PM

Community members filled our church last month at our dinner. We served until almost 7 PM! We are so grateful for our volunteers who cook, set up, clean up, and welcome our neighbors. Our next dinner is October 24. Desserts needed!



Meijer Simply Give Program

BEGINS OCTOBER 1

We can all help fund our food pantry by purchasing \$10 Meijer Simply Give gift cards now through December 30, 2023. The cards will be available at the church. Simply pick up a card and "purchase" it at our local Meijer store on East Michigan Avenue. Cards can be purchased in increments of \$10. Meijer matches your \$10 with another \$10 -- and it all goes to our food pantry. Meijer will double their gift for all cards purchased on December 16. Pick up a card soon and help fund our pantry!



Be the Blessing

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Here's what you can do to be a blessing:

- Help in the Orchard
- Donate for building maintenance
- Visit the Little Book House
- Support MyBakery
- Invite friends to church
- Attend the Community Dinner
- Help with the NHL library
- Pray for our church every day
- Donate time or money to the Samaritan Fund or Food Pantry
- Bring donations for the Baby Sprinkles and Kids' Closet
- Volunteer to be an Usher
- Sign up for Coffee Hour
- Offer your musical gifts
- Notice who's missing from worship ... and reach out with love!



Rev. Judy Goodrow

260-668-9173

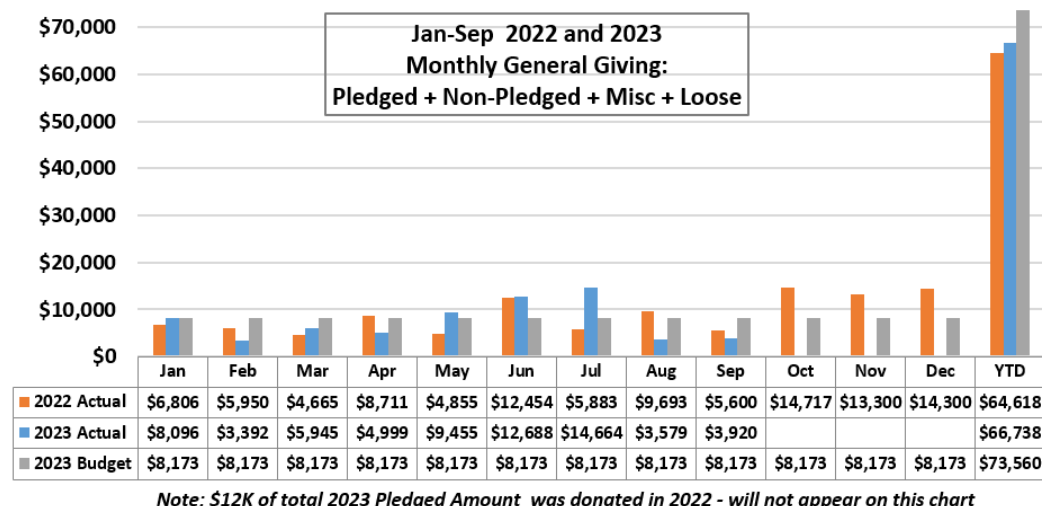
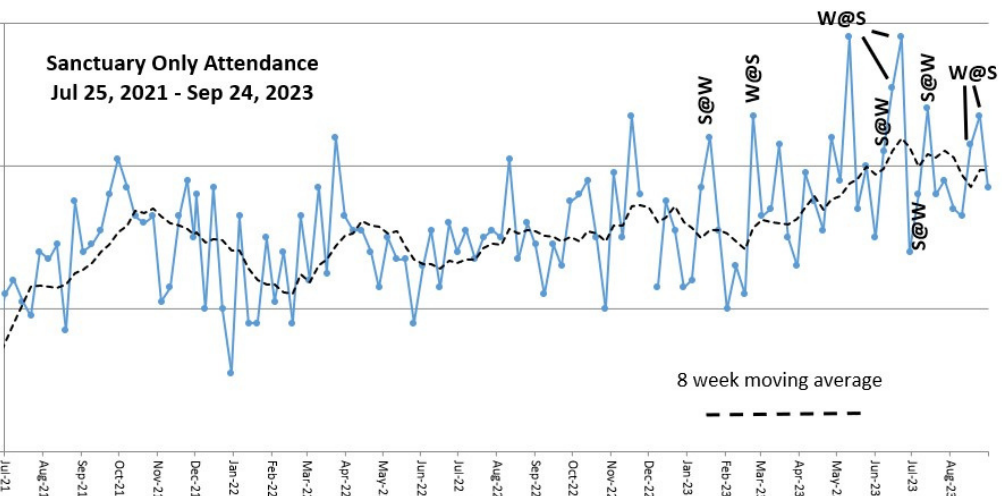
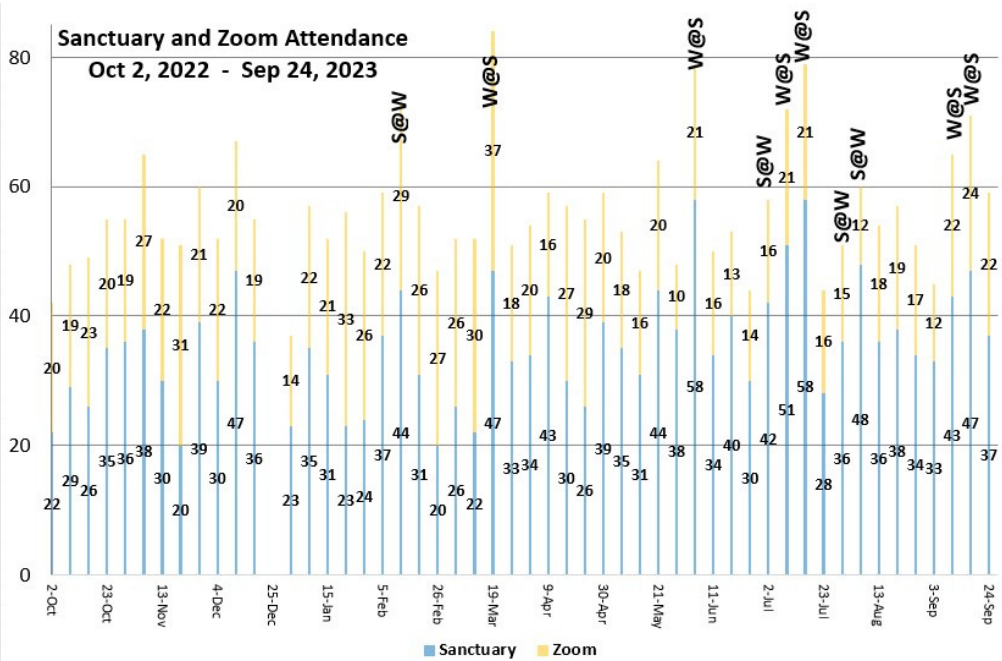
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All Saints Day Slideshow

REMEMBERED WITH LOVE

Remember your loved ones and celebrate their lives with us on Sunday, November 5. Please send in or carry in their photos for a remembrance slideshow. Photos must be received by October 29 to be included in our service on November 5.



Note: \$12K of total 2023 Pledged Amount was donated in 2022 - will not appear on this chart

Council Update

The Church Council met on September 13, and the following items were discussed:

- August attendance was 60, 54, 57, 51.
- Due to health issues, Vickie Steck resigned her positions as Outreach Lead and Partnership Team chair (effective Oct. 10). She will continue bookkeeping duties through the end of the year. The Council thanks Vickie for her many years of service for our church.
- Bids are being collected for the fire alarm system maintenance.
- The Congregational Meeting motions/minutes were reviewed.
- Council will proceed with the new roof, parking lot sealing, and lighting per congregational vote.
- Sauerkraut Supper will be Thursday, Nov. 2, at 5:30 PM. Suggested donation is \$15 per person; 16 and under free.
- Potential sanctuary/office rental for Love Temple motion failed.
- Costs will be evaluated and a rental contract for Love Temple will be developed/proposed.
- Our fall Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, October 29.

Meeting minutes for past meetings are available in the church office. Our next Council Meeting will be October 11 at 3 PM in person and via Zoom.

Myrrh Project

ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER

- NOV 5 - CAN OF SWEET POTATOES
- NOV 12 - COST OF ROLLS & PIE
- NOV 19 - COST OF MEAT

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reach up to worship God,



reach in to strengthen faith, and

reach out in service to others.

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